

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 21st DAY OF MAY 1789.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



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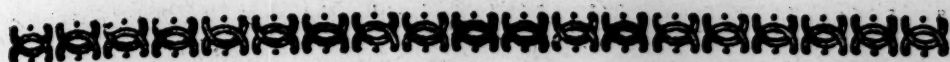
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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 21st Day of MAY 1789,
and concluded the 1st Day of JUNE in the said
Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl
of LEVEN produced, and ordered
to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 21. 1789.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this NATIONAL
CHURCH being convened and constituted,
there was produced to them, by the Right
Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the
KING's Commission, sealed with the Seal ap-
pointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in
Scotland, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making
and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner
and

and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly;--- the tenor whereof follows:

GEOGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannicæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum-primum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientiâ et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven, quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannicæ Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram Commissionem a dicto vigesimo-primo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur.*

In

In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram apud St James's, vigesimo-octavo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo octogesimo-nono, Regnique nostri anno vigesimo-nono.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.



II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.---The unwearied attention which you have shewn to the great cause of Religion and Virtue, and the repeated proofs We have received of your duty and affection to Our Person and Government, have justly entitled you to those marks of approbation which We have so frequently given to you. You may rest assured, that the continuance of so laudable a conduct will always meet with Our Royal Protection; and we have great satisfaction, on the present occasion, in repeating to you Our determination to support and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all her just rights and privileges.

The harmony and unanimity which have constantly prevailed in your proceedings, are so essentially necessary to the dignity and efficacy of your deliberations, that We are persuaded you will carefully avoid all animosities and personal altercations, and that your Councils will be directed to the laudable purposes of enforcing due obedience to the Laws of Our most happy Constitution, and inculcating a conscientious discharge of those religious duties, which are inseparable from the welfare and happiness of Our People.

B

We

We have again made choice of Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to be Our Commissioner, to represent Our Person in the present Assembly, whose fidelity, zeal and attachment We have already experienced; and We do not entertain a doubt, that he will, by a steady adherence to the duties of his high and important office, promote those great ends which We have so much at heart, and render himself acceptable to you.

We have now only to express Our earnest hope, that you will proceed in the business before you, with that charity, brotherly love and unanimity, which We have recommended to you, and that you will bring this meeting to a happy conclusion. And so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 16th day of May 1789, in the 29th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

S Y D N E Y.

Addressed thus :---To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

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III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE gracious letter with which Your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with becoming respect and gratitude.

The distinguished marks of Royal approbation which Your Majesty hath so frequently vouchsafed to give us, and which You condescend to repeat at this time, afford us the most sincere satisfaction, and are a most animating motive

motive to induce us to persevere in our unwearied attention to the great cause of Religion and Virtue, and to embrace every opportunity of testifying our duty and affection to Your Royal Person and Government. We receive, with the most lively gratitude, the gracious assurances contained in Your Majesty's letter, that the continuance of so laudable a conduct will always meet with Your Royal protection: And we rest with entire confidence in the repeated expressions of Your Majesty's determination to support and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all her just rights and privileges.

We shall endeavour to maintain, in all our proceedings, that harmony and unanimity, which are so warmly recommended by Your Majesty, which are so agreeable to the spirit of our Religion, and so essentially necessary to the dignity and efficacy of our deliberations: And it shall be our earnest study to direct our Councils to the laudable purposes of enforcing due obedience to the Laws of our most happy Constitution, and inculcating, on the people committed to our care, a conscientious discharge of those religious duties, which are inseparable from their welfare and happiness.

Your Majesty has given us a gracious pledge of Your favourable disposition towards the Church of Scotland, by again appointing the EARL of LEVEN to be Your Commissioner, to represent Your Royal Person;--- a Nobleman, whose fidelity and zeal towards Your Majesty, and whose attachment to the interests of the Church of Scotland, are universally known; and who has formerly discharged the duties of the high and important office which he now fills, in such a manner as to render him most acceptable to us.

Your Majesty's Royal Donation of one thousand pounds for propagating the Protestant Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we regard as a fresh proof of Your Majesty's paternal attention to the true interests of all Your subjects. We feel ourselves highly honoured in being made the instruments of fulfilling Your Majesty's pious intention; and we shall study to make the most prudent and effectual application of the sum with which we are entrusted.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may protect Your Person, and prosper the Administration of Your Government; That he may bless the QUEEN, the PRINCE of WALES, and all the Royal Family;

mily; and that after reigning long, with wisdom and felicity, over a free, a grateful, and a happy people, You may enter those blessed regions, where pious and virtuous Princes receive a Crown of Glory, are the earnest prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

*Edinburgh, }
May 23. 1789. }*

GEORGE HILL, *Mod.*

IV.

An Address by the General Assembly to the KING.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in National Assembly, embrace with joy, this first opportunity of approaching the Throne, with our most dutiful and sincere congratulations upon Your Majesty's recovery.

At a time when the inhal'ants of the British empire were rejoicing under Your Majesty's mild and auspicious Government, in the blessings of peace, and the manifold advantages derived from the rank which Great Britain holds amongst the nations of the earth, it pleased the Almighty, by the alarm which lately filled the hearts of Your Majesty's faithful subjects, to teach them how entirely the prosperity of nations depends upon the will

will of Heaven. The anxiety which they felt during the continuance of Your Majesty's illness, and the fervour of their wishes and prayers for Your recovery, were the spontaneous tribute of duty and affection to a Sovereign, who is endeared to His people, by those amiable virtues of which He is the Illustrious Pattern, as well as by that sacred regard to the Principles of a Free Constitution, which has uniformly distinguished His reign: And the unanimity and zeal which have marked the public demonstrations of joy, correspond to the sentiments of entire satisfaction and thankfulness with which a great and happy people, united in affectionate attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, receive from Heaven that inestimable gift by which the Almighty hath graciously vouchsafed to reward the national loyalty.

While we thus presume to speak in the name of the great body of the people of this country, who are under our care, with a confidence arising from a perfect knowledge of their sentiments, acquired by a constant intercourse with them in the discharge of our sacred functions, permit us, most gracious Sovereign, to assure You, that no class of Your Majesty's subjects were more deeply interested in the great event which has diffused such universal joy, than the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland. Entertaining no doubt of a continuance of the Royal Protection, under the Government of a Prince who has been the nursing Father of the Church, and being assured that our zealous endeavours to promote the interests of religion and virtue, will always receive countenance from that piety which ennobles the other graces of Your Majesty's character, we number the gracious answer that has been given to our prayers, amongst the many mercies which we are accustomed to trace in the history of this favoured land; and we lift our souls in thanksgiving to the God of our fathers, who, by restoring to us a King whom we love and honour as the faithful Guardian of our rights, hath afforded us a gracious pledge of their being transmitted unimpaired to latest posterity.

It shall be our constant study to cherish these sentiments of loyalty to Your Majesty, and of gratitude to Almighty God, which universally prevail: And the first wish of our hearts will be fulfilled, if a lasting sense of this great national blessing shall revive a spirit of religion, and by disposing the minds of men to learn those

lessons of wisdom which it conveys, shall, through the blessing of God, prove instrumental in promoting that righteousness which exalteth a nation.

That Your Majesty may live long to be a blessing to Your Family, to behold the happiness of Your people, to enjoy the exalted satisfaction of requiting their affection, and to maintain the glory and prosperity of the British Empire: And that succeeding Princes of the House of Brunswick, formed upon Your example, may sway the British sceptre with the same justice and moderation, and may receive from their subjects the same homage and love, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

*Edinburgh, }
May 23. 1789. }*

GEORGE HILL, *Mod.*

V.

An Address by the General Assembly to the QUEEN.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE His Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in National Assembly, presume to approach Your Majesty, with our humble congratulations upon an event most interesting to Your happiness, and most joyful to His Majesty's faithful subjects,--- the recovery of our beloved Sovereign from His late alarming illness.

The most exalted station is not exempted from those pungent distresses which, in this mixed state, are often occasioned by the most delicate and amiable affections of the human heart. But the distress of Your Majesty was alleviated by those consolations which true Religion
opens

opens to a devout mind, in the hour of deep affliction : The God of Grace, whom You had honoured in the time of prosperity, while he tried the tenderness of Your nature, was pleased to support Your faith and patience by that strength with which he strengthens the souls of his servants; and the deliverance which he hath wrought for us, hath graciously rewarded that piety which adorns the Throne, by giving You the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Your Majesty witnessed, in the solicitude which all ranks expressed during the illness of the King, how truly He reigns in the hearts of His subjects: Your Majesty received, in the sympathy with which a great Nation took part in Your sorrows, and in the gratitude, respect and confidence with which they looked up to Your character, the recompence provided for those qualities by which greatness is rendered amiable; and Your Majesty has now the satisfaction of observing, that the demonstrations of joy for that national blessing, by which God hath wiped the tears from Your eyes, are mingled with expressions of the most affectionate interest in the happiness of a Queen, whose virtues have united all His Majesty's subjects in Her praise.

That Your Majesty may long be preserved to be a blessing to the King, to form the minds of Your Illustrious Offspring, to be the pattern of Your Sex, and the Protectress of Virtue and Religion; That God, in whom alone the families of the earth are blessed, may perpetuate Your domestic felicity; That You may taste the most exquisite delight which a mother's heart can know, in beholding the virtue and happiness of Your posterity; and that, after enjoying the largest measure of good which can crown the most excellent characters in this world, You may receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that Crown of Life which fadeth not away, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most devoted servants,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

Edinburgh, }
May 23. 1789. }

GEORGE HILL, Mod.

VI.

Act anent keeping the Doors of the Assembly-house shut, during the time of calling the Roll.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1789. Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly, considering, That whereas it is highly indecent and improper for any person to vote in any cause, who has not been present at the deliberations thereon, did, and hereby do unanimously order, that before the Roll begin to be called, the doors of the Assembly-house shall be shut, and shall not be opened, until the judgment of the Assembly be declared.

VII.

COMMISSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1789. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint the Reverend Dr GEORGE HILL, Professor of Divinity in the University of St Andrews, their Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery of Dunoon*, Mr Hugh MacTavaish at Innerchaolan, Mr Alexander MacFarlane at Kilfinan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of

of *Rothsay*, Mr John Home of Kilduff:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmore in Arran, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Dugald MacDougal at Gigha and Cara, *Ministers*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Inveraray*, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Daniel Hyndman at Achoish, *Ministers*; Donald MacLauchlan, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inveraray*, Dr James Williamson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr James MacDiarmid at Weem, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr William MacRitchie at Clunie, Mr James Peter Bannerman at Cargill, *Ministers*; David Steuart, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, William Campbell, Esq; of Duneaves, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Perth*, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoull, Mr William Garvie at Aberdalgie, Mr Anthony Dow at Kilspindy, *Ministers*; Mr David Cathcart, advocate, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Perth*, John Caw, Esq; present Provost of Perth:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr Walter Buchanan at Stirling, Mr Robert Moodie at Clackmannan, *Ministers*; Mr John Erskine, advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr John Baird at Dunning, *Ministers*; the Honourable Henry Erskine, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumblane*, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr William Osborn at Tillicoultry, *Ministers*; Mr William Richardson, Professor of Humanity, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Andrew Richardson at Inverkeithing, Mr John Ferney at Dunfermline, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Culross*, Bailie John Panton of Culross:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverkeithing*, Mr William Peat, late merchant in Inverkeithing:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkcaldy, Mr James Wemyss at Burntisland, Mr George Muirhead at Dysart, *Ministers*; James Townsend Oswald of Dunnikier, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Henry Beveridge, baxter in Kirkcaldy:—From the *Burgh* of *Kinghorn*, Andrew Hamilton, Esq;—From the *Burgh* of *Burntisland*, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate:—From the *Burgh* of *Dysart*, Mr Alexander Thomson, merchant, and late one of the Bailies of Dysart:—

part :—From the *Presbytery of Cupar*, Mr George Lyon at Strathmiglo, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, Mr James Lister at Auchtermuchty, Mr Thomas Miller at Abdie, *Ministers*; Mr Robert Collier of Craigfoodie, Mr Andrew Christie of Middlefield, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Cupar*, Major John Melvill of Cairney:—From the *Presbytery of St Andrews*, Dr James Gillespie, Principal of St Mary's College, Mr James Forrester at Anstruther-Wester, Mr Spence Oliphant at Largo, Mr James Mitchell at Newburn, *Ministers*; Dr Adam Ferguson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, Dr Charles Wilson, Professor of Hebrew in St Mary's College, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of St Andrews*, Dr Andrew Duncan, Physician in Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh of Pittenweem*, Mr John Cook of Newburn, Professor of Moral Philosophy in St Andrews:—From the *Burgh of Crail*, Mr Alexander Meldrum of Kincapple:—From the *Burgh of Anstruther-Wester*, Dr James Flint, Physician in St Andrews:—From the *Burgh of Kilrenny*, Mr William Dick, Rector of the Grammar School of St Andrews:—From the *Presbytery of Meigle*, Mr John Haliburton at Kettins, Mr James Will at Ruthven, Mr James Johnston at Blairgowrie, *Ministers*; Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Forfar*, Mr Thomas Masson at Dunichen, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, *Ministers*; Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Forfar*, Charles Hope, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Dundee*, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Imlach at Murroes, Mr David Davidson at Dundee, *Ministers*; Mr William Bisset, merchant in Dundee, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberbrothock*, Mr Alexander Girvan at Lunan, Mr George Gleig at Aberbrothock, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant in Canongate of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Aberbrothock*, Mr Charles Allan, Provost of Aberbrothock:—From the *Presbytery of Brechin*, Mr James Lauder at Dun, Mr Alexander Mollison at Montrose, Mr Robert Hannah at Strickathrow, *Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esquire, younger of Edmonstone, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Brechin*, Mr George Imlach, clerk to the Signet:—From the *Burgh of Montrose*, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Fordoun*, Mr John Hutcheon at Fetteresso, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgreig, Mr James Scott at Benholm, *Ministers*; Professor John Playfair, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Bervie*,
Mr

Mr James Brown, manufacturer in Inverbervie :—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Alexander Gerard, Professor of Divinity in King's College, Mr James Hogg at Skene; Mr Alexander Henderson at Old Machar, *Ministers*; John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Aberdeen*, Mr William Ritchie, merchant, and one of the present Bailies of Aberdeen:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kincardine O' Neal*, Mr William Morrice at Kincardine O' Neal, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr Robert Michie at Clunie, *Ministers*; William MacDonald, Esq; of Rineaton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Alford*, Mr George Forbes at Leochel, Mr Alexander Mearns at Towie, Mr John Gordon at Strathdon, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esquire, younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ellon*, Mr James Miln at Ellon, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, *Ministers*; Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr George Skene-Keith at Keith-hall, Mr Alexander Cushny at Oyne, Mr Robert Shepherd at Deviot, *Ministers*; Mr John Dickson, advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kintore*, Mr Andrew Cunningham in Dalmahoy:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverury*, John Clerk, Esq; of Eldin:—From the *Presbytery* of *Deer*, Mr William Taylor at New Deer, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr William Anderson at Strichen, *Ministers*; Mr George Leslie, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Turreff*, Mr William Stewart at Turreff, Mr Alexander Johnston at Montwhiter, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Forbes, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Ordiquhill, Mr Alexander Miln at Boyndie, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Cullen*, Mr John Russel junior, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr James Scott at Gartly, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr James Thomson at Aberlour, *Ministers*; Isaac Grant of Hiltoun, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Anderson at Kingussie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, Physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr Robert Paterson at New Spynie, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon,

Gordon, clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Elgin*, Mr William Scott, banker in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Forres*, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkilly, Mr John Hoyes at Kinlofs, *Ministers*; Robert Urquhart, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Forres*, Mr Ludovick Grant junior, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Nairn*, Mr Donald Mitchell at Ardclach, Mr Pryse Campbell at Ardersier, *Ministers*; Professor John Young, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Nairn*, Alexander-Lewis Grant, Esq;—From the *Presbytery of Inverness*, Mr William Smith at Petty, Mr William MacBean at Moy, *Ministers*; Robert MacIntosh, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Inverness*, Simon Frazer, Esq; of Farraline:—From the *Presbytery of Chanonry*, Mr James Monro of Cromarty, Mr James Smith at Avoch, *Ministers*; Conventer John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Tain*, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir Easter, Mr Alexander MacAdam at Nigg, *Ministers*; Lord Ankerville, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Tain*, Robert Colt, Esq; of Auldham:—From the *Presbytery of Dingwall*, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltarn, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, *Ministers*; John Spens-Munro, Esq; of Earnside, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dingwall*, Mr Kenneth MacKenzie junior, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Abertarph*, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers*:—From the *Presbytery of Sky*, Mr Martin MacPherson at Slate, Mr Roderick MacLeod at Bracadale, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Lord MacDonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lewis*, Mr Alexander MacKay at Barvas, Mr John Frazer at Lochs, *Ministers*; Mr William Robertson, advocate, Procurator for the Church, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Uist*, Mr Edmund MacQueen at Barra, Mr John MacLeod at Harris, *Ministers*; Alexander MacLeod, Esq; of Harris, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lochcarron*, Mr Murdoch MacIver at Lochalsh, Mr Lauchlan MacKenzie at Lochcarron, *Ministers*; Dr Alexander Hamilton, Physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dornoch*, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Ministers*; Professor Hugh MacLeod, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dornoch*, Robert Bruce Æneas MacLeod of Cadboll, Esq;—From the *Presbytery of Caithness*, Mr George MacKenzie at Olrick, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, *Ministers*; Mr David Balfour, writer

writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairston*, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenness, *Ministers*; John Clerk, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *North-Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronfay and Eday, Mr James Izat at Westray and Papa Westray, *Ministers*; Alexander Cunningham, Esq; *junior*, of Hyndhope, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr John Morison at Delting, Mr Patrick Barclay at Sandsting, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Scott, South Leith, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Mr William Simpson, Edinburgh, Mr William Paul, West Church, Mr William Bennet at Duddingston, *Ministers*; John Balfour, Esq; younger of Pilrig, Mr Alexander Bonar, banker in Edinburgh, Mr Archibald Mercer, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, John Greive, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, deacon-convener of the trades:—From the *University* of *Edinburgh*, Dr Thomas Hardy, Professor of Church History:—From the *Church* of *Campvere*, Mr Alexander Wilson at Campvere, *Minister*; Robert Allan, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Bertram at Muiravonside, Mr John Scotland at Linlithgow, Mr James Dobie at Mid-Calder, Mr James MacNair at Slamannan, *Ministers*; the Honourable Captain Sandilands, Thomas Hog, Esq; of Newliston, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Mr William Napier, one of the Magistrates of Linlithgow:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Captain James Taylor:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr James Finlayson at Symington, Mr William Watson at Biggar, *Ministers*; John Brown of Coultermains, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr David Anderson at Kirkurd, Mr Alexander Ker at Stobo, *Ministers*; the Lord Chief Baron, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr John Main at Newton, Dr Henry Greive at Dalkeith, Mr John Gourlay at Crichton, *Ministers*; Robert Dundas, Esq; Solicitor General, *Ruling Elder*:—

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From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Mr Matthew Murray at North-Berwick, Mr John Trotter at Prestonpans, *Ministers*; John Hamilton, Esq; of Pencaitland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, the Most Honourable George Marquis of Tweeddale:—From the *Burgh* of *North-Berwick*, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North-Berwick:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr John Ewing at Whittingham, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, *Ministers*; John Anderson, Esq; of Winterfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dunbar*, Mr James Reid, gardener in Dunbar:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, Mr Robert Home at Polwarth, *Ministers*; George Buchan of Kello, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Chirnside*, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, Mr Thomas Miln at Ladykirk, *Ministers*; Matthew Sandilands-Dysart, Esq; writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kelso*, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fedburgh*, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Mr William Brown at Bedrule, *Ministers*; Mr James Dickson, bookseller in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Fedburgh*, Mr John Wilde, advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smalholm, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, *Ministers*; Sir James Pringle of Stitchill, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, Mr Alexander Allan, chief Magistrate of Lauder:—From the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Simon Halyburton at Athkirk, Mr James Hay at Robertson, *Ministers*; William Elliot younger of Borthwickbrae, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Roughead, late merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Annan*, Mr Alexander Monilaws at Kirkpatrick-Fleming, Mr William Scott at Gretney, *Ministers*; Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Annan*, Mr Walter Scott, merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Andrew Jaffray at Lochmaben, Dr John Burgess at Kirkmichael, Mr Gabriel Scott at Kirkpatrick-Juxta, *Ministers*; Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr Andrew Yorstoun at Closeburn, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, *Ministers*; John MacMurdo, Esq; at Drumlanrig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Sanquhar*,
Robert

Robert Whigham, Esq; Provost of Sanquhar:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Dr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, Mr James Little at Colvend, *Ministers*; Robert Riddell of Glenriddell, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Fergusson, Esq; of Craigdarroch:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kircudbright*, Mr John Gillespie at Kells, Mr Samuel Smith at Carsphairn, Mr John Johnston at Crossinichael, *Ministers*; John Gordon, Esq; of Carleton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan of Barley, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Wigton*, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, Dr Isaac Davidson at Sorby, *Ministers*; Mr Elliot William Davidson, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar:—From the *Burgh* of *Whithorn*, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of *Dumfries*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr Peter Fergusson at Inch, *Ministers*; John Ross, Esq; of Balkail, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Mr John Ramsay at Kirkmichael, Dr Thomas Miller at Old Cumnock, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr Stephen Young at Bar, *Ministers*; John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; Thomas Kennedy of Dunure, Esq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Malcolm Brown at Kilbirny, Mr Gilbert Lang at Largs, Mr Alexander Miller at Kilmaurs, *Ministers*; the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shualton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Mr Thomas Burns at Inchinnan, Mr James Steven at Lochwinnoch, Mr John Brown at Kilmalcolm, Mr Thomas Brown at Innerkip, *Ministers*; Mr Hugh Jamieson, manufacturer in Paisley, Mr John Orr, manufacturer there, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, Mr John Bower at Old Monkland, Mr John Lockhart at Cambusnethen, *Ministers*; John Miller, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, *Ministers*; Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lanark*, John Bannatyne, Esq; of Castlebank:—From the *Presbytery* of *Glasgow*, Dr Robert Findlay, Professor of Theology, Glasgow, Mr John MacCaul at Glasgow, Mr Robert Balfour at Glasgow, Mr Alexander Ranken at Glasgow, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Muir,

Muir, advocate, Mr William Walker, merchant, Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City of Glasgow*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate:—From the *University of Glasgow*, Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of Glasgow College:—From the *Burgh of Rutherglen*, George White, Esq; of Bankhead, Provost of Rutherglen:—From the *Presbytery of Dumbarton*, Mr John Davidson at Old Kilpatrick, Mr David MacGibbon at Buchanan, Mr John Allan at Row, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Ilay Campbell, Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dumbarton*, Mr John Jardine, present Dean of Guild of Dumbarton:—And the General Assembly added thereto, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, in place of the Moderator; together with all those whose Commissions were rejected on account of informality, *viz.* For the *Presbytery of Kintyre*, Archibald MacDonald, Esq; of Sanda, *Ruling Elder*:—For the *Presbytery of Mull*, Mr Patrick MacArthur at Torosay, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnarmurchan, *Ministers*; Allan MacDougall of Galanach, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—For *King's College, Aberdeen*, Mr Roderick MacLeod, Sub-principal:—For the *Burgh of Banff*, George Robinson, Esq; of Gask:—For the *Presbytery of Abertarph*, Mr John MacDonell, Minister of the Gospel, *Ruling Elder*:—For the *Burgh of Wick*, Mr James Horn, writer to the Signet:—For the *Presbytery of Langholm*, Mr John Russell at Cannoby, Mr William Little at Wester-Kirk, *Ministers*; Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—For the *Burgh of New Galloway*, Mr Ephraim Lockhart of Leith:—TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every

every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given; or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to ap-

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ply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby

by appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.



VIII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1789. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr GEORGE HILL, Professor of Divinity in the University of St Andrews, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Hugh MacTavaish at Innerchaolan, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmore, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr James MacDiarmid at Weem, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoull, Mr Walter Buchanan at Stirling, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkaldie, Mr George Lyon at Strathmiglo, Principal Gillespie, St Andrews, Mr James Forrester at Anstruther Wester, Mr John Halyburton at Kettins, Mr Thomas Mason at Dunning, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Girvan at Lunan, Mr James Lauder at Dun, Mr John Hutcheon at Fetteresso, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Professor Gerard, Aberdeen, Mr William Morrice at Kincardin-oneal, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr George Forbes at Lochel, Mr Alexander Mearns at Towie, Mr James

James Milne at Ellon, Mr George Skene-Keith at Keith-hall, Mr William Taylor at New-Deer, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr William Stewart at Turreff, Mr Robert Ogilvy at Ordiquhill, Mr James Scott at Gartly, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr Robert Paterfon at New Spynie, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkelly, Mr Donald Mitchell at Ardclach, Mr William Smith at Petty, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir Easter, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltearn, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, Mr Murdoch MacIver at Lochalsh, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrick, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay, Mr John Morison at Delting, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenfide, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr David Anderson at Kirkurd, Dr John Main at Newton, Dr Henry Greive at Dalkeith, Mr John Hamilton at Bolton, Mr John Ewing at Whittingham, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sproufton, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smalholm, Mr Simon Halyburton at Ashkirk, Mr William Scott at Gretney, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichael, Mr Andrew Yorftoun at Closeburn, Dr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Mr John Gillespie at Kells, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr John Ramsay at Kirkmichael, Mr Malcolm Brown at Kilbirnie, Mr Thomas Burns at Inchinnan, Mr John Risk at Dalsell, Mr Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, Professor Robert Findlay, Glasgow, Principal Davidson, Glasgow, Mr John Davidson at Old Kirkpatrick, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Alexander Macfarlane at Kilfinan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Mr John Home of Kilduff, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Donald MacLauchlan, Esq; Professor James Williamson, Glasgow, David Stewart, Esq; Banker, William Campbell, Esq; of Duneaves, Mr David Cathcart, Advocate, Mr Archibald Fletcher, Writer to the Signet, Mr John Erskine, Advocate, The Honourable Henry Erskine, Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, Alexander Wight, Esq; Advocate, Major John Melvill of Cairney, Dr Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, Professor John Cook, St Andrews, Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate, Mr George Im-lach,

lach, Writer to the Signet, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate, Professor John Playfair, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, William Macdonald, Esq; of Raneaton, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, Mr John Dickson, Advocate, John Clerk, Esq; of Eldin, Mr George Leslie, Merchant, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Forbes, Writer, Mr George Andrew, Writer, Mr John Russell, *junior*, Writer, Mr Baron Gordon, Isaac Grant of Hilton, Esq; Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, Writer, Mr William Scott, Banker, Edinburgh, Robert Urquhart, Esq; Advocate, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, Writer, Robert MacIntosh, Esq; Advocate, Simon Fraser, Esq; of Faraline, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, Lord Ankerville, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, *junior*, Writer, Lord Macdonald, The Procurator, Dr Alexander Hamilton, Edinburgh, Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, Robert Bruce, Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, Esq; Mr David Balfour, Writer, Mr Alexander Youngson, Writer, Mr Malcolm Laing, Advocate, Alexander Cunningham, Esq; *junior*, of Hyndhope, John Clerk, Esq; Advocate, Professor Andrew Dalziel, Edinburgh, John Balfour, Esq; younger of Pilrig, Mr Alexander Bonar, Banker, Mr Archibald Mercer, Merchant, John Grieve, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Orlando Hart, Robert Allan, Esq; Banker, The Honourable Captain Sandilands, John Brown of Coultermains, Esq; The Lord Chief Baron, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; The Solicitor General, The Marquis of Tweeddale, George Buchan of Kello, Esq; Matthew Sandilands Dyfart, Esq; The Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Mr James Dickson, Bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr John Wilde, Advocate, Sir James Pringle of Stitchill, Mr Walter Scott, Merchant, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; Mr Archibald Douglas, Writer, Alexander Fergusson, Esq; of Craigdarroch, Horatius Cannan of Barley, Esq; George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar, John Bushby, Esq; Mr Thomas Smith, Writer, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate, The Honourable Patrick Boyle, John Miller, Esq; Advocate, Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, Mr Thomas Muir, Advocate, Archibald Campbell, Esq; Advocate, The Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his

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Majesty's

Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes, in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and

and in giving of certificates to them ; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee ; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof : And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts ; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified ; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment ; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them ; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall

shall be ministers ; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour ; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient : And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance ; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers ; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting ; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty, is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their
answer

answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the Scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

IX.

Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers, re-transmitted.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1787.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, that, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

- I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor, a certificate from the minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or Certificates from the several

H

Professors

Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied; from which it may be clearly ascertained, that in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. To afford the better security for the regular and exemplary conduct of Students in Divinity, it is hereby enacted, That upon the conclusion of that session in which they were first inrolled by the Professor, they shall, some time within six kalendar months thereafter, intimate to the Presbyteries, in whose bounds they have their respective places of residence, that they have commenced Students in Divinity; and that, if any Student has occasion to remove from the bounds of one Presbytery to those of another, he shall, within six kalendar months after said removal, intimate the same to the Presbytery in whose bounds he is to have his new residence, and produce to them a certificate of his character from that Presbytery with whom he was last connected; or at least a certificate of his moral character from the minister of the parish in which he resided. And it is farther enacted, that the several Presbyteries of this Church, shall keep exact lists of such Students of Divinity, as reside within their bounds, and watch over the conduct of the said Students.

III. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity, for the term of six years: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in four sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in five sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, that in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several sessions of their respective courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an *Exegesis* in Latin on some controverted head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a Popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises, as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. It is likewise

wise hereby enacted, that, in each of these respective cases, the course shall be computed from the commencement of that session in which the Student was originally inrolled; and that if a Student be proposed to any Presbytery for trials, during the currency of his fourth, fifth or sixth session, according to the special nature of his case, that session shall be sustained as one of his course.

IV. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist, That every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second session, at the latest, and the remainder of his discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last session of his course.

V. When a Student is to be proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting all the Certificates in favour of the Student, that are usually required on such occasions; to desire him to attend the same, and to inform him, that previously to the meeting, he ought to wait on such members of the Presbytery, as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

VI. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

1st, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2^d, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3^d, No Student shall be admitted to trials unless he produces to the Presbytery, a Certificate or Certificates, from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his discourses in the manner

manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour, of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless he shall either have resided six kalendar months within their bounds, immediately previous to the date of their deliberations, or shall produce a certificate of his being qualified, as is herein provided, from the Presbytery in whose bounds he hath had his usual residence for that period.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, *two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same*, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon public trials; and bearing, that the several certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

See Abridgment,
Sess. ult. 1788.

VII. The General Assembly do likewise appoint Presbyteries to observe the several regulations which are prescribed

prescribed in the immediately preceding section of this act, before they recommend a Student as qualified to be taken upon public trials by any other Presbytery.

VIII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted, even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

IX. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials.

X. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, The Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1st, Catechetic Trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church History; 2^d, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3^d, An *Exegesis* in Latin, on some controverted head in Divinity, with the defence of the Thesis; 4th, A Homily in English; 5th, An Exercise and Addition; 6th, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; 7th, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

XI. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding

section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order :

1st, They shall deliberately and seriously take a conjunct view of the whole trials ; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a licence in his present circumstances.

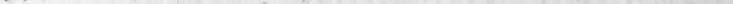
2^d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3^d, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions which are appointed to be put to all who pass trials, by Act 10. Assemb. 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4th, The Presbytery shall order the act against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his licence, agreeable to the form thereof, which is prescribed by the laws of this Church.

XII. For the better observance of this Act, the General Assembly ordain, 1st, That it shall be printed among their other Printed Acts ; 2^d, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form ; 3^d, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland ; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective halls, once at least during every session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that session ; 4th, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery within the bounds of this Church ; and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the members ; and, lastly, That when any Presbytery shall give a Probationer an extract of his licence, they shall subjoin to the form, which is already requisite on that occasion, the following words : “ And the Presbytery do hereby certify, That, in granting this licence, the Act
“ of



X.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

XI.

Edinburgh, June 1. 1789. Sess. ult.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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ABRIDGMENT

A B R I D G M E N T

O F T H E

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held in the year 1789, which are not printed at full length.

Thursday, May 21. 1789. Sess. 1st.

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr ARCHIBALD DAVIDSON, Principal of the College of Glasgow, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house, in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr Archibald Davidson, the Reverend Dr GEORGE HILL, Professor of Divinity in the University of St. Andrews, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The Moderator represented to the Assembly, that it had been the usual practice, after the choice of a Moderator, to turn to the Throne, to receive any communications, which his Grace the COMMISSIONER had to deliver to them from their most Gracious SOVEREIGN: But as the office of Principal Clerk was vacant, by the death of the Reverend Dr JOHN DRYSDALE, and at the disposal of the Assembly, he submitted to the House, whether they should, in the first place, fill up that vacancy.—After reasoning at considerable length on this subject, a motion was made and seconded,—“That the General Assembly do now proceed to elect a Principal Clerk of the Assembly in the room of the late Dr John Drysdale.”—To which motion the following amendment was proposed and seconded;—“Under this *proviso*, that it shall be competent to any member of this Assembly to demand a Scrutiny or Investigation of the legality of the votes, or any of them, given for any of the candidates:—That for this purpose, the names of all the members voting, and for whom they vote, shall be taken down;—That the Investigation shall be committed to the Committee for revising Commissions: That the Assembly shall, at a subsequent diet, decide on their report; and that the election shall then be declared to have fallen on the person having the majority of legal votes on the roll, as purged by the Assembly.”—The state of the vote was put, *Amendment*, or *Not*;—It being understood, that if it carried *Amendment*, the Assembly should immediately proceed to the election of a Principal Clerk, under the *proviso* contained in the Amendment: And if it carried *Not*, that the Amendment should be rejected:—And the roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Amendment*.—Therefore the Assembly agreed to proceed

ceed immediately to the election of a Principal Clerk, under the *proviso* contained in the above Amendment.—Against which decision the Solicitor General protested.—Then the Reverend Dr ALEXANDER CARLYLE, Minister of the Gospel at Inveresk, and Mr ANDREW DALZEL, Professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh, being proposed as candidates for the office of Principal Clerk ;—The vote was put, *Dr Carlyle*, or *Mr Dalzel* : And the roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Dr Carlyle*.—The Moderator being desired to declare in what manner he would give his casting vote, if, upon a Scrutiny, there should appear an equality of votes, declared, That “ he does now give his vote for Dr Carlyle.”—Thereupon the Honourable Henry Erskine demanded a scrutiny in behalf of Mr Dalzel ; and Principal Davidson demanded the same in behalf of Dr Carlyle : Both which demands were granted by the Assembly : And the Roll of the Assembly, being marked agreeable to the Amendment, was sealed with the seals of the Moderator, Principal MacCormick, and Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood ; these two Reverend Gentlemen having been previously requested to assist the Sub-Clerk by marking the Roll while the members voted ; and the said Roll so sealed, was delivered to the Moderator.—The Assembly therefore did, *with and under the proviso above mentioned*, elect, constitute and appoint Dr ALEXANDER CARLYLE, Minister of Inveresk, to be Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, and Commissions thereof, with power to him to exercise that office, and enjoy the Emoluments, Profits and Privileges thereof, as fully and freely, as Dr John Drysdale, or any other his predecessors enjoyed the same : And Dr Carlyle compearing, the oath *de fidei administratione officii* was administered to him ; and he took his place as Principal Clerk to the General Assembly.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN to represent His Majesty's Royal Person read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

The same Committee appointed to draw up a congratulatory address to His Majesty on His recovery from His late Illness: And also an address to the Queen, on the same happy event.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof; naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A B R I D G M E N T. 1789.

A Committee for overtures named.
A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

Friday, May 22. 1789. Sess. 2d.

Sederunt.

A diet spent in Prayer.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718 for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace, the King's Commissioner.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at 7 o'clock in the usual places.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 23. 1789. Sess. 3d.

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced.

Several members adhered to the protest taken on Thursday by the Solicitor General in the question relative to the Clerkship.

The draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

See Printed
Acts, N^o. III.

The draught of an Address to the KING on His recovery from his late Illness, being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty. N^o. IV.

The draught of an Address to the QUEEN on the same happy event, being likewise brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to her Majesty. and N^o. V.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced and read.

A Committee named to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audit and revise the accounts of the procurator and agent for the Church, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Assembly agreed to consider the petition of Mr James Lawson, preacher, on Monday.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several members, any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The

A B R I D G M E N T. 1789.

The Committee for overtures also appointed to meet on Monday next at twelve o'clock.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 25. 1789. Sess. 4.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

Petition for Mr John Anderson, together with instructions from the Presbytery of North-Isles, read, and remitted to the Committee for considering new applications.

Overtures anent the augmentations of stipend, and overtures on the horse-tax, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read, and all petitions relating to the public money, referred to the Committee on public accounts.

Committees appointed to revise the Synod-books of Angus and Mearns, and of Lothian and Tweeddale.

None of the other Synod-books being brought up, appointed that they be brought up to next Assembly.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the petition for Mr James Lawson; which being read, and Mr Lawson heard in support thereof, the Assembly without debate, dismissed the said petition.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at eight o'clock, and to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

Tuesday, May 26. 1789. Sess. 5.

Sederunt.

A new commission produced, read, and sustained.

The Synod-book of Dumfries produced, and a Committee named to revise the same.

The report of the Committee for overtures was called for—And as the business therein contained, respected the interest of Dr Carlyle, the Assembly allowed him to retire, and appointed Mr William Murray *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, to officiate as clerk, during the Assembly's considering this report.

The Assembly then considered the said report, article by article as follows.

It was objected to the commission from the Presbytery of Kintyre, “ *imo*, That Mr James Ferrier, who was elected by the
“ Presbytery as their elder to the General Assembly, upon the
“ 25th of March, was not an ordained elder of this Church;
“ and when Mr Ferrier was informed that he was elected, he
“ wrote to one or other of the members of the Presbytery, in-
“ forming them, that he was not an elder, and finding fault
“ with them for having elected him. In consequence of Mr
“ Ferrier's letter, the Presbytery, upon the 15th of April, elect-
“ ed Mr MacDonald of Sanda in place of Mr Ferrier, and at-
“ tested him to be *in all respects qualified in the same manner with*
“ *Mr Ferrier*; therefore if the attestation is to be founded on,
“ it

“ it amounts to nothing more, than that Mr MacDonald was
 “ not an Elder at all ; and that Mr Ferrier not being an Elder,
 “ his election was null and void, consequently no substitution
 “ could follow on his resignation : Mr MacDonald’s election
 “ therefore is either a null substitution, or a new election with-
 “ in the forty days.—And *2do*, That the substitution is not
 “ signed on the first page.” After reasoning on the first ob-
 “ jection at great length, the following motion was made and
 “ seconded, “ That when a Presbytery of this Church elects a
 “ Commissioner who is not an Elder, and afterwards, within
 “ forty days of the meeting of the General Assembly, on the
 “ resignation of the person so elected, elects another, by the
 “ form of substitution prescribed by the laws of the Church,
 “ such substitution is null and void ; and that therefore it is
 “ competent, in support of the objection, against the right of
 “ Mr MacDonald of Sanda to sit and vote as a member of this
 “ House, to prove by the testimony of Mr MacDonald himself,
 “ and other *parole* evidence, that Mr James Ferrier, the Com-
 “ missioner first elected by the Presbytery of Kintyre, was not
 “ an Elder of the Church.” Another motion was made and se-
 “ conded, “ To find, in respect that no objection is made to the
 “ qualification of Mr MacDonald as an Elder, it is inexpedi-
 “ ent to enter into the consideration of the question respecting
 “ Mr Ferrier in its present situation, whereby the Court would
 “ go into extraneous evidence, and he might be deprived of
 “ his state, who is no member of this Assembly, nor a party
 “ to their procedure, and whereby an oblique censure will be
 “ inflicted on a Presbytery, who are not a party before this
 “ House.” The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *First*
 or *Second* motion : And the roll being called and votes mark-
 ed, it carried *first* motion : Therefore the Assembly decided
 in terms of the above-mentioned first motion accordingly. In
 consequence of which decision, the Moderator, by direction
 of the House, put this question to Mr MacDonald of Sanda,
 “ Whether it was consistent with his knowledge, that Mr
 “ James Ferrier, the Commissioner first elected by the Presby-
 “ tery of Kintyre, was not an Elder of this Church, at the time
 “ of his election :” To which Mr MacDonald made the fol-
 lowing answer :—“ Finding a precedent likely to be establish-
 “ ed of vast importance to the Church of Scotland, I desire to
 “ be heard by Counsel, as interested in the consequences, whe-
 “ ther I am bound to answer this question or not.”—The As-
 sembly, after reasoning upon this answer, agreed to delay the
 consideration of the request made by Mr MacDonald till to-
 morrow.—Then the Assembly considered the second objection
 to this Commission, *viz.* “ That the substitution is not signed
 “ on the first page :”—And without debate, unanimously re-
 pelled the same.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Inver-
 aray, “ That the Elder is not sufficiently designed.” The As-
 sembly, without debate, unanimously repelled the objection,
 and sustained the Commission.

A B R I D G M E N T. 1789.

See Act 6. Ass.
1698; Act 7. Ass.
1738; and p. 25.
Ass. 1759.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Mull, "That the Commission is null and void, the election having been made *within the forty days*."—After long reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, "That the Assembly sustain the objection, and ordain the Commissioners names to be expunged from the roll."—Another motion was made and seconded, "That the Assembly repel the objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Mull, bearing date the 5th of May current, in respect of the exception in the law, in favour of the Northern and Western Isles, and of the usage founded thereon."—The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *First* or *Second* motion:—And the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *first* motion. Therefore the Assembly sustained the objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Mull, and ordained the Commissioners names to be expunged from the roll.—Upon which Mr George Ferguson dissented, and protested.

The Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to proceed farther on the report of the Committee for overtures, to meet to-morrow at Eleven o'clock.
Adjournment.

Wednesday, May 27. 1789. Sess. 6th.

Sederunt.

The Assembly having called for the report of the Committee of the whole House, for considering the report of the Committee for overtures, the same was given in and read: And it having been objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling, "That the date of the resolution to elect is not sufficiently explicit:"—To the Commission from the Presbytery of Auchterarder, "That the date of the resolution to elect is not sufficiently explicit, and that the first page of the attestation is not signed:"—To the Commission from the Presbytery of Dumblane, "That the word *of* is substituted twice in place of *at*, in the designation of the Ministers:"—To the Commission from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, "That the Elder is differently named in the Commission, and in the attestation:"—To the Commission from the burgh of Kinghorn, "That the date of the Kirk-session's attestation is in a different hand and ink from the body of it:"—And to the Commission from the burgh of Forfar, "That, after the words *Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate*, the words *Ruling Elder* are wanting:"—The Committee reported, "That all the said objections severally ought to be repelled, and the Commission sustained." And it having been objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Aberbrothock, "That Mr George Gleig is returned as one of the representatives, though he is in fact not even a Minister of the Church of Scotland, much less Minister of Aberbrothock, since his ordination and admission is in the face of the Act 5. Sess. 9. Ass. 1732."—After reasoning at great length, a motion was made, "That the consideration of the objection to Mr Gleig's Commission,
" be

“ be postponed until a judgment be given on the appeal, at
 “ the instance of Charles Allan, Esq; relative to Mr Gleig’s
 “ settlement :” And another motion being made, to proceed ;
 this state of the vote was agreed to, *Proceed* or *Delay*. And
 the roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Delay* ; there-
 fore the Committee reported to the General Assembly in terms
 of the said first motion accordingly.

The General Assembly having considered the above-mentioned
 report of the Committee of the whole House, did unanimously
 approve thereof, and order accordingly.

The General Assembly, agreeable to the resolution of yesterday,
 proceeded to consider the request of Mr MacDonald of Sanda,
viz. “ That he desired to be heard by Counsel, as interested in
 “ the consequences, whether he was bound to answer the
 “ question or not,” and Mr MacDonald being called, com-
 peared, and said, “ I am not bound, and therefore decline an-
 “ swering the question put by the Venerable Assembly.”—A
 motion was thereafter made and seconded, “ That Mr Mac-
 “ Donald having declined to answer the question put by the
 “ General Assembly, he must be held as confessed, and there-
 “ fore that his election, proceeding upon the substitution to Mr
 “ Ferrier, was null and void, and that his name shall be ex-
 “ punged from the Assembly Roll.”—Another motion was
 made and seconded, “ That, as the resolution of the Assembly
 “ finds it competent to prove that Mr Ferrier is not an Elder,
 “ by the testimony of Mr MacDonald, and other *parole* evi-
 “ dence, and as Mr MacDonald has declined answering the
 “ question put to him, recourse shall be had to other *parole*
 “ evidence.”—The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote,
First or *Second* motion ; and the roll being called, and votes
 marked, it carried *First* motion : Therefore the Assembly held
 Mr MacDonald as confessed, he having declined to answer
 the question put to him by the Assembly yesterday ; and ha-
 ving found that his election, proceeding upon the substitution
 to Mr Ferrier, was null and void, they did therefore expunge
 Mr MacDonald’s name from the Assembly Roll.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Aberbro-
 thock, “ That the Kirk-session’s attestation is invalid, as sign-
 “ ed by Mr George Gleig, who is not a Minister of the Church
 “ of Scotland, much less Minister at Aberbrothock.”—The
 Assembly delayed the consideration thereof, until the objec-
 tions to Mr Gleig’s own Commission are discussed.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Bervie, *imo*,
 “ That the attestation of the Presbytery, though written on
 “ two pages, is not signed on the first page.—*2do*, The attes-
 “ tation of the Kirk-session, is dated at *Bervie*, instead of *In-*
 “ *verbervie*.”—The Assembly repelled the objections, and sus-
 tained the Commission.

An objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Aber-
 deen, being the same with that made to the Presbytery of
 Stirling, the Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained
 the Commission.

It

It was objected to the Commission from the King's College, Aberdeen, *1mo*, "That the Commission is null, as wanting the essential words, *in order to elect their representative to the ensuing Assembly.* *2do*, That it is liable to the same objection made to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling." This second objection, the Assembly unanimously repelled: But, with respect to the first, a motion was made and seconded, "That the said first objection to the Commission be sustained, the Commission rejected, and the Commissioner's name expunged from the Roll."—Another motion was made and seconded, "That the Assembly repel the objection to the Commission from King's College, Aberdeen, in respect that the words omitted are immaterial, being sufficiently supplied by the whole tenor of the Commission, when fairly construed." The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *Expunge* or *Not*, and the Roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Expunge*. Therefore the Assembly sustained the said first objection to the Commission from the King's College of Aberdeen, rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioner's name to be expunged from the Roll.

A motion was made, "That the Assembly do adjourn, and immediately resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, and proceed farther in the business;"—which motion being objected to, and a proposal made, "That they shall proceed no farther in the business to-night,"—The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *Adjourn* or *Not*:—It being understood, that, if it carry *Adjourn*, the Assembly shall immediately adjourn; and if it carry *Not*, that the Assembly shall adjourn, and immediately be resolved into a Committee of the whole House, and proceed in the business: And the Roll being called and votes marked, it carried *Not*. Therefore the Assembly came to the resolution to adjourn, and to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, and immediately to proceed farther in the business.—Upon which Mr John Bushby and Dr Henry Greive dissented, and protested.

Adjournment.

Thursday, May 28. 1789. Sess. 7th.

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the dissent and protest, taken on Tuesday by Mr George Fergusson, in the case of the Decision respecting the Commission from the Presbytery of Mull.

The accounts of the Procurator, Agent, Printer, and Stationer, produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr Solicitor General stated, That he was authorised on the part of Dr Carlyle, and those friends who supported him, to inform the Assembly, that having come to the resolution of abandoning the contest for the Clerkship, so far as it could be decided under the scrutiny by the Assembly, they meant not to maintain any farther argument on the remaining part of the report, but would content themselves with barely entering their dissent

sent from, and protest against such decisions as the House might give, in which they could not acquiesce.

It was moved, and unanimously agreed to, "That the thanks of the House be given from the chair, with the most profound respect, to His Grace the Lord High Commissioner, for His patient and polite attention during the long and fatiguing diets of this Assembly:" And the Moderator having accordingly addressed the Throne, His Grace was pleased to make a most gracious reply.

It was moved, and unanimously agreed to, "That the thanks of the House shall be given to the Moderator, for his most impartial, dignified and able conduct, in a very delicate and uncommon situation, during all the preceding diets of this Venerable Assembly:" And he having left the chair, the sincere and hearty thanks of the House were accordingly given to him by the late Moderator.

The report of the Committee of the whole House, for farther considering the report of the Committee for overtures, being called for, and produced, the Assembly agreed to consider the same, article by article, as follows.

Objection made to the Commission from the Presbytery of Alford, "The same with that to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling, and the objection not removed, by the interlineation of the word *last*."—The Committee reported, "That the objection ought to be repelled."—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

Objection made severally to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Ellon and Deer, "The same as that to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling." The Committee reported, "That the objection ought to be repelled."—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commissions.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Turfess, "That the first page of the Presbytery's attestation is not signed."—The Committee reported, "That the objection ought to be repelled." The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

The Committee unanimously reported, "That the Commission from the burgh of Banff, ought to be rejected, as it is neither attested by the Kirk-session nor Presbytery, and the election made two days before the time."—The Assembly unanimously approved of the report, rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Strathbogie, "That Mr *Baron Gordon* is not a sufficient designation for the Elder." The Committee, without a vote, reported "that the objection ought to be repelled." The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained

sustained the Commission.—Upon which Mr George Andrew dissented, and protested.

Objection made severally to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Aberlour and Abernethy, “ The same as that to the “ Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling.” The Committee reported, “ That the objection ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commissions.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Elgin, *1mo*, “ The same as that to the Commission from the Presbytery of “ Stirling; and, *2do*, It has Mr William Gordon as Minister as “ Urquhart.” The Committee reported, “ That the objections “ ought to be repelled.” The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objections accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Nairn, *1mo*, “ That the word *Elder* is, on the margin of the substitution, not scribe-scribed, and in a different hand, seemingly put “ in *ex post facto*, which word being material, seems to vitiate “ the Commission. And, *2do*, The substitute, Professor Young, “ is not designed either as an Elder, or Ruling Elder, nor “ does he receive such designation in the subsequent proceedings of the Presbytery, or in any other part of the paper, “ which he has produced as a Commission.”—The Committee reported, without a vote, “ That the objections ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objections accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Nairn, “ That there is no such person as *Alexander Lewis Grant, Esq*; “ and that at any rate those names, in that order, do not belong to the gentleman who claimed his seat in the Assembly, “ in virtue of the Commission; and farther, the word *Esquire*, “ added to the name of an individual, is not a sufficient designation to a gentleman.”—The Committee reported, “ That “ the objection ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Chanonry, respecting the Elder, “ That there is no such person as “ *Convener John Lindsay in Edinburgh*.” The Committee reported, “ That the objection ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commission.—Upon which Mr Solicitor General dissented, and protested.

The objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Dingwall, being “ The same as that to the Commission from the “ Presbytery of Stirling”;—The Committee reported, “ That “ the objection ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Abergath, “ That the Elder appointed by the Commission is dis-
“ qualified

“qualified from being a member of Assembly, as being a *Missionary* on the Royal Bounty, and designed *Minister of the Gospel*.”—The Committee, without a vote, reported, “That the objection ought to be sustained, and the Commissioner’s name expunged from the roll.”—The Assembly, without a vote, approved of the report, sustained the objection, and ordained the Elder’s name to be expunged from the roll.—Upon which Dr Gerard and Dr Greive dissented, and protested.

See Act 4.
Act 1753.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Sky, “That there is no such person as *Alexander Lord MacDonald*, who is elected Elder.”—The Committee reported, “That the objection ought to be repelled.” The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection accordingly, and sustained the Commission.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lewis, *1mo*, “The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling:—And, *2do*, That there was no quorum of the Presbytery present at the diet of election, nor were the members duly summoned to the meeting, which was *pro re nata*.”—The Committee unanimously reported, “That the first objection ought to be repelled:” And without a vote, reported, “That the second objection ought to be repelled, in respect no proof is offered in support thereof.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission.—Upon which John Clerk, Esq; Advocate, dissented, and protested.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Uist, “The same as to that from the Presbytery of Dumblane, viz. The insertion of the word *of* for *at*.” The Committee reported, “That the objection ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

Objection made severally to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Dornoch and Caithness, “The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling.”—The Committee reported, “That the objection ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

With respect to the Commission from the burgh of Wick, the Committee reported, “That the Commission ought to be rejected, the election being made too soon.”—The Assembly approved of the report, rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioner’s name to be expunged from the Roll.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Cairnston, *1mo*, The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling:—And *2do*, that it appears to have been extracted with a blank left for the names of the members said to be elected.”—The Committee reported, “That the objections ought to be repelled.”—The Assembly approved of the report, repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission.

The Assembly then proceeded to consider, article by article, the remaining part of the report of the Committee for overtures,
upon

upon the Commissions remitted to them by the Committee for revising Commissions, as follows :

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Zetland, " That there are no words which, by any construction, " import a resignation on the part of Mr William Jack, in " whose room Mr Patrick Barclay is said to have been elected, but a mere assumption by the Presbytery, founded upon " no evidence, so far as appears, or is now competent to be produced ; besides, it is believed, that Mr William Jack is now " in Edinburgh, and has been for some time, so that the pretended reason, is contradicted by the fact. This is an objection perfectly distinct from those cases where criticisms " may have been made upon the act of the party himself ; besides, the words of the pretended resignation, are contrary " to the printed form."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.—Upon which Mr Charles Hope dissented, and protested, and Mr Solicitor General and Mr Isaac Grant adhered.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Edinburgh, " *1mo*, The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling.— " *2do*, There is a material word in the Presbytery's attestation, " which is illegible in the place where, by the printed form, " there ought to have been an approbation of the Commission. " —*3tio*, The whole of the Ministers are improperly designed, " in opposition to the printed form, and the word *in* improperly " substituted for the word *at*, without authority.—*4to*, One " Reverend gentleman is called, *Mr William Paul Minister in* " *West Church* ; this may apply to the West Church of Glasgow, or of any other place, though without the bounds of " the Presbytery of Edinburgh."—The Assembly repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission.—Upon which Mr George Fergusson dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the City of Edinburgh, " That the *pro re nata* meeting of Presbytery, which attested " Mr Greive's Commission, was called irregularly *pro re nata*, " several constituent members thereof not having been cited " at all."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.—Upon which Mr John Clerk, and Mr Wilde, Advocates, dissented, and protested.

Objection to the Commission from the University of Edinburgh, " The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Church of Campvere, " —That the Commission makes no mention of the Church of " Scotland, so that, bearing date beyond seas, the Commission " does not show, that the Assembly to which the member was " sent, was that of the Church of Scotland or not."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.—Upon which Mr Bushby dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Linlithgow, " That the Elder is imperfectly designed."—The Assembly

Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Linlithgow, "That the designation of the Commissioner is not only incomplete, but different from the person named in the Commission."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Queensferry, "That the designation of the Ruling Elder is not sufficiently explicit." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

Objection made severally to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Biggar and Dalkeith, "The same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commissions.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Haddington, "That from the error of a word, the Presbytery's attestation does not bear the approbation of the Commission."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

The same objection was made to the Commission from the Presbytery of Dunbar, as that to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling.—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Dunbar, "That the attestation is not signed on the first page, nor does the second refer to it."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

The same objection with that made to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling, was also made to the Commissions from the Presbyteries of Dunse, Churnside, Kelfo, and Jedburgh.—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commissions.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Jedburgh, "That the Presbytery's attestation does not attest the qualifications of Mr Erskine, therefore the substitution of Mr Wilde, thereon grafted, cannot be good."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission; upon which Mr George Fergusson dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lauder, "That the Elder is not properly designed."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Lauder, "That the Kirk-session's attestation is signed *Minister*, contrary to the form, which requires *Moderator*."—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Selkirk, "That in the nomination of the original member, the word *Nine* is superinduced on an erasure, and that there is no other date following upon the same paper, to ascertain that the true date was in the year 1789: 2dly, That the person originally elected, was not attested, either by the Kirk-session,

“ fion, or by the Presbytery.”—The Affembly repelled the objections, and fustained the Commiffion.

It was objected to the Commiffion from the Presbytery of Langholm, “ That the Commiffion is not fubfcribed by any perfon whatever.”—The Affembly fustained the objection, rejected the Commiffion, and ordained the Commiffioners names to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commiffion from the burgh of Sanquhar, “ That in the attestation by the Presbytery, the word *before* which is material, is wrote feemingly in a different hand, “ diftant from the line, on an unfigned margin, and followed “ by a deleted word.”—The Affembly repelled the objection, and fustained the Commiffion.

It was objected to the Commiffion from the burgh of Dumfries, “ That the Commiffion is informal, in fo far, as being but “ an extract itfelf, it appoints an extract thereof to be delivered.”—The Affembly repelled the objection, and fustained the Commiffion.

As to the double election from the burgh of Kirkcudbright, it was objected to the Commiffion in favour of William Lenox, “ *1mo*, That he was not elected by a legal majority of the “ Town-council of Kirkcudbright: And, *2do*, That his pretended Commiffion was neither attested by the Presbytery, “ nor refused to be attested by them.” It was objected to the Commiffion in favour of Mr Horatius Cannan, that, *1mo*, “ It is a fettled point, That where there is a double return, “ neither of the perfons fo returned can vote, till the refpective “ merits of thofe returns be determined: *2do*, Mr Cannan’s “ Commiffion is not figned; and though the ftrange doquet “ annexed to it, may be argued, as vefting a right to be afterwards declared, it never can fupport a vote already given, before any judgment pronounced upon the objection.”—The Affembly fustained the objection to Mr Lenox, and rejected his Commiffion.—The Affembly then proceeded to confider the objection to Mr Cannan’s Commiffion; and having caufed to be read a petition for him, with an extract of the minutes of the burgh of Kirkcudbright, and other papers refpecting his Commiffion, the Affembly, after reasoning, found, That Mr Cannan was duly elected, as Elder for the burgh of Kirkcudbright; and therefore repelled the objection, and fustained the Commiffion. Upon which Mr Solicitor General and Mr Bushby diffented, and protested.—The Affembly thereafter found, That notwithstanding the double return, Mr Cannan was entitled to claim his vote, before the merits of the double return were determined. Upon which Mr Charles Hope diffented, and protested; to which Mr MacLeod of Cadboll adhered.

Objection to the Commiffion from the Presbytery of Wigton: “ *1mo*, The fame as that to the Commiffion from the Presbytery of Stirling: And, *2do*, The Elder is not fufficiently “ defigned.”—The Affembly repelled the objections, and fustained

See Aff. 1736,
Seff. I.

sustained the Commission; upon which Mr Adam Gillies dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Wigton, "That the Presbytery's attestation is not signed on the first page." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Whitehorn, "That the date of the Presbytery's attestation is filled up evidently in a different hand and ink." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Ayr, "That the attestation by the Kirk-session attests the Commissioner to be an heritor within the bounds of the *said* Presbytery, and there is no Presbytery mentioned in the preceding part of the attestation: Therefore, there is no attestation, that he is an heritor within the Presbytery of Ayr, within the bounds of which the burgh lies, and the attestation does not mention any other qualification. To which is added, That the words *of Ayr* on the margin, are not sufficient to remove the objection, as they are no legal part of the attestation." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission. Upon which Mr John Erskine dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Hamilton, respecting the Elder, "That John Millar, Esq; Advocate, is Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow, who, it is believed, did not appear in this Assembly; nor can the vote be sustained, which was given by another gentleman, assuming a designation which did not belong to him, the designation of the gentleman who actually voted, being, John Millar, Esq; *junior*, Advocate. *2do*, Objected to the whole Commission, the same as to that from the Presbytery of Stirling." The Assembly repelled the objections, and sustained the Commission. Upon which Mr Bushby dissented, and protested.

Objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lanark, "The same as that to the Commission from the Presbytery of Stirling." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the city of Glasgow, "That though the attestation by the Kirk-session bears to have been given by the Kirk-session of the West Parish of Glasgow, yet the attestation by the Presbytery does not bear the production to them by the said Kirk-session, but of an attestation by a Kirk-session of the said burgh; so that, for ought that appears, the Presbytery may have made their attestation, in consequence of there having been produced to them an attestation by some other Kirk-session of the burgh, than the Kirk-session of the West Parish. To which is added, That the word *a* before Kirk-session, is evidently superinduced over the word *the*." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

See Act 9. A.
1788.

It

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Dunbarton, "That in the date of the act of Assembly prescribing the *formula*, as mentioned in the Kirk-session's attestation, the word *seven* appears to have been erased, and the word *six* superinduced." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of New Galloway, "1^{mo}, That the gentleman said to be elected, is not sufficiently designed. 2^{do}, That he has none of the qualifications required by law, to entitle him to represent the burgh of New Galloway. 3^{tio}, That the first page of the extract is not subscribed; and, 4^{to}, It wants the attestations of both the Kirk-session and Presbytery." The Assembly sustained the second objection, rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioner's name to be expunged from the roll. Upon which Mr George Fergusson dissented, and protested.

It was objected to the Commission from the University of St Andrews, "That in the beginning of the Commission, the words, *the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members*, and afterwards, the words, *having right to elect*, are omitted, and the Commission is begun in these words, *The which day a meeting of the University of St Andrews being called and convened, &c.*" The Assembly unanimously repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

See Act 7. Ass.
1770.

A member called for the Commission from the burgh of Rothsay, and objected to the manner of the designation.—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission. Upon which, Mr David Cathcart dissented, and protested.

Overture anent the Slave-trade, and overture for rescinding the 9th Act of Assembly 1788, were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Assembly agreed to consider the cause of Mr Gleig to-morrow, and to consider the cause respecting Dr MacGill, after the roll of the Assembly is purged, and the election of the Clerk declared; and after that, the Settlement of Ardrossan, as the first private cause.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 29. 1789. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

The Assembly, upon a motion, unanimously ordered, "That before the Clerk begin to call the roll, the doors of the Assembly-house shall be shut, and shall not be opened, until the judgment of the Assembly be declared."

See printed Acts,
No. VI.

The report of the Committee for classing returns to overtures transmitted, given in, read, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday.

The Committee for revising the Commission-record, the Royal Bounty-record, and the Synod-books, appointed to meet, and report to-morrow.

Upon

Upon a motion from the Bar, the Assembly appointed the Committee for Bills, to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Upon a motion, the Assembly authorised the Procurator to pay to Mrs Drysdale, relict of the late Reverend Dr John Drysdale, Principal Clerk of Assembly, what salary was due to him at the time of his death, and also the salary that was due to that office, up to the term of Whitsunday last 1789, upon Mrs Drysdale's receipt alone.

An appeal at the instance of Charles Allan, Esq; Provost of Aberbrothock and others, from a sentence of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, of the 28th of October last, dismissing an appeal taken by them, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Aberbrothock, on the 31st of July preceding, whereby the Presbytery resolved to take Mr George Gleig, Preacher of the Gospel, upon trials, in order to his ordination as Minister of Aberbrothock, and to proceed to his settlement with all convenient speed; as also a petition and complaint for them, against the proceedings of the above Presbytery, on the 29th of October and 11th of December last, resolving to ordain, and afterwards ordaining Mr Gleig to be Minister of Aberbrothock, in the face of the appeal, heard.—After long reasoning, it was moved and seconded, “ That the Presbytery of Aberbrothock, and Mr Gleig, are not parties in this Court, in any of the proceedings of the Presbytery, subsequent to the meeting of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, in October last.”—To which the following amendment was moved and seconded: “ But that it shall, nevertheless, be competent to the Assembly to judge of the validity or invalidity of the admission of Mr Gleig to be Minister of Aberbrothock.”—This state of the vote was then agreed to, *Amendment or Not*,—It being understood, if it carry *Amendment*, that the said Presbytery and Mr Gleig are parties, and that the amendment shall be adopted; and if it carry *Not*, that it shall not be competent to proceed to judge of the validity or invalidity of the admission of Mr Gleig to be Minister of Aberbrothock;—and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Amendment*; therefore, the Assembly found, “ That the Presbytery of Aberbrothock and Mr Gleig are parties in this Court, in the proceedings of the Presbytery, subsequent to the meeting of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, in October last, and that it is competent to the Assembly to judge of the validity or invalidity of the admission of Mr Gleig to be Minister of Aberbrothock.” Parties being thereafter removed, the Assembly proceeded to deliberate on the merits of Mr Gleig's ordination and settlement,—and after long reasoning, a motion was made and seconded: “ To find and declare, That the settlement and ordination of Mr Gleig, as Minister of the Church and Parish of Aberbrothock, was and is void and null, having been made by the Presbytery, in pursuance of a sentence of the Synod, in the face of an appeal competently taken from the said sentence of the Synod, by which appeal, the effect of the Synod's sentence was suspended, till the appeal was either fallen from or discussed; declaring, nevertheless, That

“ the ordination of the said Mr Gleig, as a Minister of the Gospel, is not by this judgment brought into question.”— Another motion was made and seconded: “ That in respect “ the ordination and settlement of Mr Gleig has already taken “ place, notwithstanding of the appeal from the Synod in “ October last, the Assembly do now wave the consideration “ of said appeal; and find, That albeit the Presbytery have “ acted irregularly, and are subject to censure; yet the ordi- “ nation and settlement of Mr Gleig are good and valid.”— The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *First* or *Second* Motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Second Motion*. Therefore the Assembly decided in terms of the Second Motion accordingly. Upon which, Charles Hope, Esq; and Dr Greive dissented.

The Assembly then proceeded to consider the objection to the Commission from the Presbytery of Aberbrothock, which had been delayed till the cause respecting Mr Gleig’s settlement was discussed.—The objection was, “ That Mr George Gleig “ is returned as one of the representatives, though he is, in “ fact, not even a Minister of the Church of Scotland, much “ less Minister at Aberbrothock, since his pretended ordination “ and admission is in the face of the Act 5. Sess. 9. 1732.”— The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

The Assembly also considered the objection to the Commission from the burgh of Aberbrothock, viz. “ That the Kirk-ses- “ sion’s attestation is invalid, as signed by the above named “ Mr George Gleig.”—The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission. Upon which, Mr George Fergusson dissented, and protested.

The Assembly finding that the roll is now completely purged, the Moderator was authorised by them to break open the seals of that copy of the roll, which had been delivered to his charge by order of the Assembly, on the 21st instant, wherein the names of all the Members voting, and for which candidate for the Clerkship they had voted, were marked; and the Moderator having read out the names of such persons as the Assembly had agreed to expunge from the roll, the majority of legal votes was found to be in favour of Professor Dalzel; whereupon he was declared to be duly elected.—Therefore, the Assembly did elect, constitute and appoint, Mr ANDREW DALZEL, Professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh, to be Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, and Commissions thereof, with power to him to exercise that office, and enjoy the emoluments, profits and privileges thereof, during all the days of his natural life, as fully and freely as Dr John Drysdale, or any other his predecessors enjoyed the same: And Professor Dalzel compearing, the oath *de fidei administratione officii* was administered to him, and he took his place as Principal Clerk to the General Assembly. Upon which, Dr Greive and Mr George Fergusson dissented, and protested.— Thereafter, the roll above mentioned was again sealed by the

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the Moderator, and delivered, in the Assembly's presence, to Dr William Gloag, the Sub-clerk of Assembly.
Adjournment.

Saturday, May 30. 1789. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

Several Members adhered to the dissent and protest taken yesterday by Dr Greive and Mr George Fergusson, respecting the election of Professor Dalzel, as Principal Clerk of Assembly.

Two Members also adhered to the dissent and protest taken yesterday by Mr Charles Hope and Dr Greive, respecting the decision in the case of Mr Gleig.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 506 : 18 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 3 : 11 : 1 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 158 : 18 : 9 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 35 : 16 : 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer to the Church, and payment ordered.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphinstone Balfour, Stationer to the Church, and payment ordered.

The report of the Committee named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, together with the opinion of the Procurator and Committee thereon, given in, and read.

The Procurator authorised to pay Mr Patrick MacArthur, Minister of Torosay, the sum of L. 36, 5 s. Sterling, after the debts already on the fund, are paid.

The Procurator authorised to pay Mr James Smail, Minister of Dornoch, the sum of L. 4 Sterling, after the debts already on the fund, are paid.

The cause respecting the feuing of the glebe of Little Dunkeld, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to take such steps as may appear necessary to bring the question to a final decision, at the public expence.

The process of reduction of the decret of modification of the stipend of Kinlofs, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public expence.

The process of locality of the stipend of the Parish of Westra, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on at the public expence, and to do therein as they shall see cause.

The petition for Mr John Gordon, Minister of Strathdon, respecting a reduction of a decret of modification of the stipend
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of that parish in the year 1722, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to take such steps as may appear necessary in this business, at the public expence.

The process at the instance of Mr John Anderson, Minister of the united parishes of Stronsay and Eday, against his heritors, with regard to the reparation of his manse; and also the process of intrusion at the instance of Robert Laing of Strynie, against Mr Anderson, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on at the public expence; but, *in hoc statu*, refused Mr Anderson's petition *quoad ultra*.

The process of suppression of the parish of Nenthorn, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to do therein as they shall see cause, at the public expence.

The petition for Mr George Barry and Mr James Watson, Commissioners from the Presbytery of Kirkwall, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to enquire into the grievances therein set forth, and to take such steps, as shall appear necessary to obtain relief, at the public expence.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-record called for.—They reported that they had no remarks to make, no business having come before last Commission, and consequently the Commission and instructions were only inserted in the record.—The record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in and approved of.—The Assembly added thereto, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Minister at Inveresk, in place of the Moderator, and also all those whose commissions had been rejected on account of informality.

Printed Acts,
No. VII.

The report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty register, given in and read.—The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

Printed Acts,
No. VIII.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns, ordered to be attested.

The Committees appointed to revise the other Synod-books, ordered to give in their reports on Monday.

The Committee on the scheme for erecting new Parishes in the Highlands and Islands renewed, with the former powers.

The following Persons appointed as a Committee for managing the Enzie-fund, *viz.* Dr Hunter, Dr Hardy, Mr Simpson, and Mr Greenfield, *Ministers*.—The Procurator, Mr John Ruffel, *junior*, Bailie Leslie, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, Mr James Saunders, writer, and Mr George Andrew, writer, *Ruling Elders*.

Upon a motion, the Assembly appointed the Presbytery of Aberbrothock to sit themselves at the bar of next Assembly, in order to answer for their conduct in the settlement of Mr Gleig, and to bring up the record of their proceedings, relative to the settlement of the said Mr Gleig.

The report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament, for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing

taining an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday; and upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair, to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the fund.

The Committee for considering the overtures on the horse-tax, with the overtures on the same subject given in to last Assembly, and the proceedings thereon, appointed to give in their report on Monday.

A complaint by Dr William Taylor and others, from a sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, remitting an overture relative to some publications of the Reverend Dr William Macgill, one of the Ministers of Ayr, to the Presbytery of Ayr, and enjoining them to enquire into the grounds of an alleged *fama clamosa*, respecting these publications, heard; and, after reasoning at great length, the Assembly agreed to delay the farther consideration of this affair till Monday.

Adjournment.

Monday, June 1. 1789.—*Seff. ult.*

Sederunt.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale, and the Synod-book of Dumfries, ordered to be attested.

The report of the Trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament, for a provision for Ministers widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out and ordered to be recorded.

The overture concerning the licensing of Probationers, and the overture concerning the ordination of Elders, ordered to be re-transmitted. See Printed Act No. IX. & X.

The report of the Committee named for considering the overtures anent the horse-tax, called for, given in, read, and approved of, appointing “ a Committee to apply to Parliament for an exemption from the tax upon riding-horses, and every other tax, to which the Clergy are, or may be subjected; and to report their progress to next General Assembly.”

Reasons of dissent and protest against the resolution, respecting the election of Principal Clerk of Assembly, at the first diet of this Assembly, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Reasons of dissent and protest by Mr George Fergusson, in name of Dr Carlyle, against the proceedings relative to the election of Principal Clerk, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Also reasons of dissent and protest were respectively given in and read, against the following decisions of the Assembly, *viz.*
The decision respecting the Commission from the Presbytery of Mull:

The decision in the case of the settlement of Mr Gleig:

The decision respecting Provost Charles Allan's commission:

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The decision in the case of the substitution to the election by the Presbytery of Zetland :

The decision in the case of the Commission from the Burgh of Kirkcudbright, in favour of Mr Horatius Cannan :

The decision in the case of the Elder from the Presbytery of Abertarph :

The decision in the case of the substitution of the Elder by the Presbytery of Kintyre :

And general reasons of dissent and protest against the scrutiny of the roll of the Assembly, in the case of the election of Principal Clerk :

All of which reasons of dissent were ordered to lie *in retentis* ; and the clerks to give out certified copies of the same when required.

Upon a motion, the General Assembly appointed the Moderator, Dr Erskine, Mr Solicitor General, the Honourable Henry Erskine, Professor Dalzel, and the Procurator, as a Committee, to apply in the name of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to the Lord Clerk Register, and the Trustees of the Register-office, and to request that they would be pleased to appropriate a room in that Office, in which the records and papers belonging to the Church may be kept, under the custody of the Clerk thereof ; and the Assembly recommended to Mr William Murray *jun.* writer in Edinburgh, to arrange those books and papers, and to make an inventory of the same.

The General Assembly resumed the consideration of the cause of Dr Macgill, and after long reasoning, the Assembly unanimously reversed the sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr ; but recommended to the Presbytery of Ayr to take such steps in this matter as they shall find necessary for preserving the purity of the doctrines of this Church, and the authority of her standards. The Clerk ordered to transmit an extract of this sentence to the Presbytery of Ayr.

The Member who brought in the overture relative to the Slave Trade, withdrew the same, in respect the Assembly had already made a resolution upon that subject, and had not time to enter upon any new proposition.

A Committee named to consider the overtures concerning the augmentations of stipends, and to report to next Assembly. Sir Henry Moncreiff appointed Convener of the Committee.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings, at this, and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the ACTS of the ASSEMBLY as are to be Standing Rules, in order to their being printed.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Printed Acts, Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly.

No. XI.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.

F I N I S.

